chamber wall at the port so that the interior of the housing is accessible through the port, the interior of the housing including a transmission media for transmitting an output signal of the sensor from the distal end of the housing to the proximal end of the housing and through the port; and

an apparatus located outside of the chamber and connected to the transmission media for receiving and processing the sensor signal.

REMARKS

After the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-31 are active in the present application. Claims 24-29 have been amended in order to correct a typographical error in the preamble by removing the word "optical" so that each of these claims now conforms to the language of base claim 23. Claims 30 and 31 have been added in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what the Applicant regards as his invention. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the foregoing amendment to claims 24-29 or as a result of the addition of new claims 30 and 31.

In view of the foregoing amendment and discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application including claims 1-31 is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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24. The [optical] monitoring system as recited in claim 23, wherein the sensor is selected from the group consisting of a temperature sensor, a pressure sensor, an oxygen sensor and a spectra graphic chemical analysis sensor.

25. The [optical] monitoring system as recited in claim 23, wherein the housing comprises a flexible sheath formed of a stainless steel bellows.

26. The [optical] monitoring system as recited in claim 23, wherein the housing comprises a flexible polymeric tube.

27. The [optical] monitoring system as recited in claim 23, wherein the window is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of synthetic sapphire, glass, quartz and a polymeric material.

28. The [optical] monitoring system as recited in claim 23, wherein housing further includes a sealed window secured to the distal end of the housing by a method selected from the group consisting of brazing, fusion and an adhesive.

29. The [optical] monitoring system as recited in claim 23, wherein the interior of the housing is provided with a fluid under pressure to control the environment within the interior of the housing.